

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AF-10
ARA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 /104 W
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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4900

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY OSLO

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 2616

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, CU, RQ, UN

SUBJ: UN COMMITTEE OF 24 (C-24): PUERTO RICO

REF: USUN 2606

1. SUMMARY: WHILE C-24 VICE CHAIRMAN VRAALSEN REMAINS HOPEFUL THAT CONSENSUS STATEMENT WILL PROE POSSIBLE, CUBA'S PERM REP ALARCON REPORTEDLY BEING PRESSED BY SOME PUERTO RICAN ELEMENTS FOR A RESOLUTION NATURE OF WHICH COULD NOT GAIN CONSENSUS SUPPORT. C-24 HEARD A DOZEN PETITIONERS AT AUGUST 16 MEETINGS. THERE WERE ADVOCATES OF COMMONWEALTH STATUS, STATEHOOD, AND INDEPENDENCE. STATEMENTS RANGED FROM EXTREME STRIDENCY INCLUDING INCITEMENT TO VIOLENCE ON PART OF LEFT-WING INDEPENDENDISTAS TO MODERATE POSITIONS ON PART OF COMMONWEALTH AND STATEHOOD SUPPORTERS. ALL THREE GROUS, HOWEVER, TOOK UNCLE SAM TO TASK FOR ALLEGEDLY SHORT-CHANGING PUERTO RICO ON ITS RIGHTS. END SUMMARY.

2. VRAALSEN MET ALARCON P.M. AUGUST 16. ALARCON IS CONSIDERING TEXT FOR DRAFT CONSENSUS STATEMENT GIVEN BY VRAALSEN TO CUBAN MISOFF SALADO VILLACIN AUGUST 15
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(REFTEL) VRAALSEN REMAINS HOPEFUL THAT CONSENSUS STATEMENT WILL BE POSSIBLE. ALARCON, HOWEVER, REPORTEDLY BEING PRESSED BY SOME PUERTO RICAN ELEMENTS FOR RESOLUTION NATURE OF WHICH COULD NOT GAIN CONSENSUS. VRAALSEN HAS EMPHASIZED TO SOME OF THE PUERTO RICANS THAT IT WOULD BE FAR MORE MEANINGFUL FOR THEM TO HAVE A CONSENSUS STATEMENT RATHER THAN A RESOLUTION ENJOYING SUPPORT OF ONLY PART OF C-24.

VRAALSEN BELIEVES HE GOT THIS POINT ACROSS.

3. WITH NEED FOR MOST OF C-24 BUREAU TO BE ON ITS WAY SOON TO LAGOS FOR ANTI-APARTHEID CONFERENCE, VRAALSEN REASONS THAT, IF THERE IS INSISTENCE FOR A DRAFT OF SOME SORT WHICH CANNOT ENJOY CONSENSUS, IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE TO POSTPONE COMPLETION OF C-24'S CONSIDERATION OF PUERTO RICO UNTIL SEPTEMBER, THEREBY, ALLOWING TIME FOR LOBBYING.

4. DOZEN PETITIONERS INCLUDING MIAMI'S MAYOR FERRE HEARD DURING AM AND PM MEETINGS AUGUST 16. THERE WERE ADVOCATES OF COMMONWEALTH STATUS, STATEHOOD, AND INDEPENDENCE. STATEMENTS RANGED FROM EXTREME STRIDENCY INCLUDING INCITEMENT TO VIOLENCE ON PART OF LEFT-WING INDEPENDENTISTAS TO MODERATE POSITIONS OF COMMONWEALTH AND STATEHOOD SUPPORTERS. ALL THREE GROUPS AND VIRTUALLY EVERY SPEAKER, HOWEVER, WITH EXCEPTION OF FERRE (STATEHOOD), TOOK UNCLE SAM TO TASK FOR ALLEGEDLY SHORT-CHANGING PUERTO RICO ON ITS RIGHTS. SATISFACTION WITH THE PROCEEDINGS SEEMED EVIDENT ON THE PART OF THE PETITIONERS. TWO PRO-COMMONWEALTH SPEAKERS, FOR INSTANCE, NOTED TO MISOFF THEIR APPROVAL OF HEARINGS AS USEFUL OUTLET FOR PUERTO RICAN FEELINGS. THE CHANGE IN THE ATMOSPHERE BROUGHT ABOUT BY CRITICISM OF UNCLE SAM BY ELEMENTS FROM ALL PARTS OF PUERTO RICO'S POLITICAL SPECTRUM HAS NOT BEEN CONFIDENTIAL

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LOST ON ALARCON. HE HAS EMPHASIZED THIS CHANGE TO VRAALSEN. LEONARD

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: INDEPENDENCE, RESOLUTIONS, COMMITTEES
Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 17-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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